- The levy obligation on sugar factories has been enhanced from 10% to 20% of production *w.e.f.* 01.10.2009 for 2009-10 sugar season only, *vide* notification dated 7th October, 2009.

1.1 Besides augmenting the sugar stocks by permitting import of raw and white/refined sugar in 2008-09 sugar season, the Central Government has imposed stock holding and turnover limits to moderate prices of sugar as follows:

– Stock-holding and turnover limits on sugar dealers *vide* notification dated 12,03.2009 for a period of four months, and thereafter for another period of six months *i.e.* upto 08.01.2010 *vide* the notification dated 16.7.2009. Further, Khandsari sugar has now been brought under the ambit of stockholding and turnover limit.

– An order has been issued *vide* notification dated 22.08.2009 imposing stockholding limit on large consumers of sugar who are using or consuming more than ten quintals of sugar per month as a raw material for production or consumption or use, stipulating that such bulk consumers shall not hold sugar stock exceeding fifteen days of their requirement. The notification has come into effect from 19.9.2009.

– Futures trade in sugar has been suspended in domestic exchanges *w.e.f.* 27.5.2009 till the end of 2009.

Rotting imported pulses

175. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several lakh tonnes of imported pulses remained stocked at Kolkata and other ports in July, 2009 when prices of pulses soared due to their shortage;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the quantity of pulses rotten in this process and became unfit for human consumption;

(d) whether the matter has been enquired into to find out whether this was a deliberate act and conspiracy to create shortage and increase prices of pulses in the market; and

(e) the steps taken to prevent recurrence of such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) No, Sir; The 4 PSUs such as NAFED, PEC, STC and MMTC are authorized to import pulses. Accordingly, the facts in this regard as reported by the 4 PSUs are as follows:-

i) NAFED reported that as on 31.7.2009, 5979 MTs of Yellow peas was stocked at Kolkata Port Trust. The above stock was stored at Kolkata Port Trust due to the delay in clearance from health authorities.

ii) PEC, STC and MMTC reported that there are no stocks of imported pulses lying at Kolkata Port.

(c) NAFED has confirmed that no stock of Yellow Peas was damaged at Kolkata Port Trust.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Government of India has taken steps to discourage storage of these commodities in the Port area and early transport outside.

Price rise of essential commodities

176. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that prices of essential commodities are rising continuously;

(b) if so, the details of the prices of essential items increased since last one year till date, item-wise and month-wise;

(c) whether Government is taking any step to effectively control the price rise in the interest of common man;

(d) whether Government is considering to make available wheat, onion, oil and other essential items in retail stores throughout the country to control the price rise; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The details of the prices of essential items since last one year till date, item-wise and month-wise is given in the enclosed Statement-I (*See* below).

(c) The Government Measures to check the prices of essential commodities are given in the enclosed Statement-II (*See* below).

(d) and (e) The Government will release 30 lakh tonnes of tonnes of rice under OMSS (D) scheme for September to December 2009. Allocation of 10 lakh tonnes of wheat and 5 lakh tonnes of rice to State Governments has been made. In addition 5 lakh tonnes of wheat for sale by FCI to bulk consumers through tenders has been made. The wheat and rice allocated to the States is to be distributed through Corporations/Cooperatives/Federations/Self-helped groups or any other Government or semi- Government organizations of States/UTs. The State Governments is also allowed to sell wheat to small processors of wheat like chakkies, bakeries. Quantity and rates of allocation to State Governments and lifting position by States is given in the enclosed Statement-III and IV.